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## **BLIGHT ELIMINATION AND BROWNFIELD REDEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (BEBR)**

The Blight Elimination and Brownfield Redevelopment Program (BEBR), housed in the Wisconsin Department of Commerce, provides grant funds to assist local governments, businesses and individuals with assessing and remediating the environmental contamination of an abandoned, idle or underused industrial or commercial facility or site. A redevelopment plan that promotes economic development and has a positive effect on the environment is an essential element in a successful BEBR application.

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### **PROGRAM FUNDING**

This program typically receives about \$7.5 million in a combination of state and federal funds each fiscal year. The maximum grant award is \$1.25 million. Grants require a 20 to 50 percent match depending on the size of the grant awarded.

### **ELIGIBLE APPLICANTS**

Eligible applicants include cities, villages, towns, counties, tribes, non profit organizations, individuals and businesses.

### **ELIGIBLE ACTIVITIES**

BEBR grants may be used for brownfields redevelopment or associated environmental remediation activities. Eligible costs are determined during a review of the grant application. However, grant funds may typically be used for the following activities:

- The environmental investigation, remediation or groundwater monitoring of the site;
- The removal of underground storage tanks or hazardous waste containers;
- The acquisition cost of the brownfield site;
- Site clearance, building demolition or building renovation;
- Asbestos and lead paint abatement; and
- Infrastructure improvements.

### **APPLICATION AND AWARD PROCESS**

The BEBR program has a continual application process in which applications are accepted throughout the year, and potential applicants are encouraged to contact program staff to discuss the project first. In reviewing the applications, Commerce considers the following criteria in an application review:

- The potential of a project to promote economic development;
- Whether the project will have a positive effect on the environment;
- The quality and amount of the applicant's contribution to the project; and
- The innovativeness of the proposal for remediation and redevelopment.

Decisions are announced approximately 30 days after a completed application is received.

### **GRANT RECIPIENTS**

Each successful applicant must enter into a contract with Commerce for the purpose of implementing the proposed grant. The contract will require the creation and maintenance of the project's proposed new full-time positions for a minimum two-year period. Recipients must provide regular financial and program reports and when applicable, ensure compliance with Federal requirements such as environmental review and Davis-Bacon wage issues.

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## APPLICATION AND CONTENT

Application forms are available from program staff. Each application shall contain **all** of the following:

1. The name, address and designated contact person of the applicant.
2. Supporting documentation to demonstrate the party that caused the portion of the environmental contamination which is the basis of the grant request is unknown, cannot be located, or is financially unable to pay for the cost of the cleanup.
3. A description of the proposed project, including all of the following:
  - (a) The location and duration of the project.
  - (b) The brownfields redevelopment and environmental remediation activities for which the applicant is seeking grant funds.
  - (c) An itemized estimate of the proposed cost of each project activity.
  - (d) A description of the proposed match investment and professional qualifications of the persons conducting any in-kind services.
  - (e) A list of other federal, state, local and private funding or financial sources the applicant may be seeking funding from, including the amount, timing and certainty of the awards.
  - (f) A project implementation schedule, including the brownfields redevelopment activities, environmental remediation activities and site redevelopment.
  - (g) A map showing the location of the project within the municipal jurisdiction it is located and an indication if this project is located in any specially designated federal, state or local economic financing or taxation zone.
4. The potential for the project to promote economic development in the area (e.g. increase in taxable property, job creation, and wage and benefit information).
5. A description of the current environmental conditions and the impact the project will have on the environment.
6. The innovativeness of the applicant's project proposal for remediation and redevelopment.
7. An explanation of why assistance under the BEBR grant program is necessary and what is likely to result if assistance is not granted, including information demonstrating that:
  - (a) Sufficient funding is not available at reasonable terms from any other source.
  - (b) State funds received under this chapter will not replace funds from any other sources, such as Agri-Chemical, Petroleum Environmental Cleanup Fund Act, and Superfund.
  - (c) The project is not likely to take place without the grant.
8. A statement, with supporting documentation, that the applicant is financially sound and has the financial resources to complete the project as proposed in a timely manner.
9. A certified statement that the proposed project will not result in a net loss of permanent employees.
10. Copies of any environmental reports produced for the project site.

